

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-8 and 11-19 are currently pending in the application. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

In the Office Action, Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled. Thus, applicants submit that the rejection has been rendered moot and should, therefore, be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-8 and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 814.104. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The Applicant cannot agree with the Examiner's assessment of the disclosure of EP 0 814 104. Claim 9 of EP 0 814 104 does disclose a carbamate modified aminoplast curing agent. However, in that curing agent, the carbamate moiety that is attached (-CH₂-NR'-CO₂R'' as R₂ - R₇ and R₉ - R₁₂) to the constituent triazine group (-CH₂-NR'-CO₂R'' as R₂ - R₇ and R₉ - R₁₂) is not the same as that carbamate moiety (-COOR as X) that is attached to the triazine group(s) in the present application. Such differences in the structure of the respective carbamate groups will result in differences in the rigidity and flexibility of the molecular structure.

The curing agent of claim 9 of EP 0 814 104 can be summarized by the formula C₃N₆[CH₂OR₈]_x[CH₂NR'-CO₂R'']_{6-x} where x is between 1 and 5 but is preferably in the range from 1 to 3. This prior art document does not therefore constitute an enabling disclosure for deriving a mixture of 1,3,5-triazine compounds comprising less than 1 carbamate moiety per triazine moiety.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over EP 0 814 104 in view of WO98/18856. Additionally, claims 1-8 and 13-19 were

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over WO 98/18856, Forgione et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,710,542, Gehret et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,732,899, Gupta et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,852,133, and Flood et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,063,922. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed previously, the product claims of the present application can be clearly distinguished from EP 0 814 104. The Applicant thereby contends that the combination of the process defined in that citation with the disclosure of WO 98/18856 cannot yield a method having the features of claims 11 and 12 of the present application. Additionally, WO 98/18856 provides no new teaching as to the 1,3,5-triazine carbamates which may be included in the cross-linking compositions it describes; the carbamates are known materials incorporated by reference to other citations (page 5, line 1f). However, if the preferred form of the carbamates in this citation is considered (defined from page 5, line 6) it is clear firstly that - independent of the form of the R group - these compounds will contain two carbamates per triazine moiety. Further, as that R group is itself preferably a carbamate (page 5, line 27) the citation is teaching towards mixtures comprising between 2 and 3 carbamates per triazine moiety and therefore teaching away from the subject matter of claim 1 of this application.

The Examiner has cited a number of additional documents which he considers render the present invention obvious. However, the Applicant would like to highlight the following distinctions between those citations and the subject matter of claim 1:

- US Patent No. 4,710,542 (Forgione et al.) pertains to compounds of the general formula $C_3N_6(CH_2OR)_{6-x}(CH_2NHCOOR')_x$ wherein R is hydrogen or a C_{1-12} alkyl and R' is a C_{2-18} β -hydroxyalkyl or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl. As x ranges from about 2 to 6 (column 2, lines 48-61) these compounds always comprise a substituent $-CH_2NHCOOR'$ per triazine moiety. Such substituents are not present in the triazine compounds of the present invention as, according to the general formula of claim 1, there will always be a substituent Q on the amino group instead of $-COOR'$.

- US Patent No. 5,852,133 (Gupta et al.) discloses 1,3,5-triazine compounds consisting of one or more 1,3,5-triazine cores having an average of at least two carbamate groups attached to the cores (column 2, lines 41-44). Oligomers of the 1,3,5 triazine carbamates are preferably formed therefrom (column 2, line 65-67). By contrast, the 1,3,5 triazine compounds defined in claim 1 of the present application have between 0.05 and 2 carbamate groups per triazine ring and are formed into mixtures.
- US Patent No. 6,063,922 (Flood et al.) discloses **at least bis-** carbamate functionalised 1,3,5-triazine compounds (column 2, line 68) which is clearly distinguishable from compounds having between 0.05 and 2 carbamate groups per triazine ring.
- The substituent groups attached to the triazine ring of the compounds disclosed in US Patent No. 4,732,899 (Gehret et al.) bear no resemblance to those defined in claim 1 of the present application.

The foregoing arguments show that no citation to date has taught or suggested the compounds and substituent groups of the present invention. It is thus respectfully submitted that the subject-matter of the present claims is not obvious in view of these references.

No fees, other than the request for a one moth extension of time provided in a separate paper, are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, should any other fees be required for any reason relating to these materials, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. to Deposit Account No. 08-3038, referencing Order No. 00307.0042.NPUS00.

In the event that the Examiner finds any impediment to the prompt allowance of the claims which could be rectified by a telephone interview with the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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